

Brookfield Primary School



Engaging parents – some strategies



Summary of Content

Here are 3 different examples of how to *engage parents* with school science.

The huge response to the science evening shows how interested parents really are.

The impact has extended well beyond science week by giving the school a database of *parent science expertise*.



What the school says

We wished to increase parental engagement and decided to use our science week to do this in two ways:-

1. By tapping into existing expertise within our parent body.
2. Engaging the wider parent body with the practical science that their children experience at school in order to promote scientific activity and dialogue between parents and children.

What we did

A family science evening when 450 people came back to school to take part in practical science activities, many of which could be recreated at home.

A science careers morning for Y5 & Y6 when 7 parents who use science in a variety of ways professionally came in to speak to groups of children on a carousel.

Parent visitors to Y3 & Y4 to explain how their work uses science.

A family Science evening



Magic shows –
come and
discover the
science behind
the magic



Science
experiments
to try here
and then do
at home.

We also had demonstration science
lessons to see how science is taught
at Brookfield

The family
“forces”
competition



Click
here to
find out
more

Science Careers Morning

We invited a range of visitors who use science in their work to speak to groups of children for 10 minutes each in a carousel.



The jobs included; a paediatrician, a professor of rocks and soils, a professor of design, a tree surgeon, a mathematician who explained how mobile phone frequencies work and a synthetic organic chemist.

Parent visitors

One parent ran 2x 45 minute workshops with Y4 about his work on the study of the animal & plant species of Madagascar and how this feeds into urgently needed conservation/ sustainable development efforts on the island.

Parents visited Y3 and Y4 to explain how their work uses science

Another talked to Y3 about her work with blood banks, including what blood actually does and why there are different blood groups.



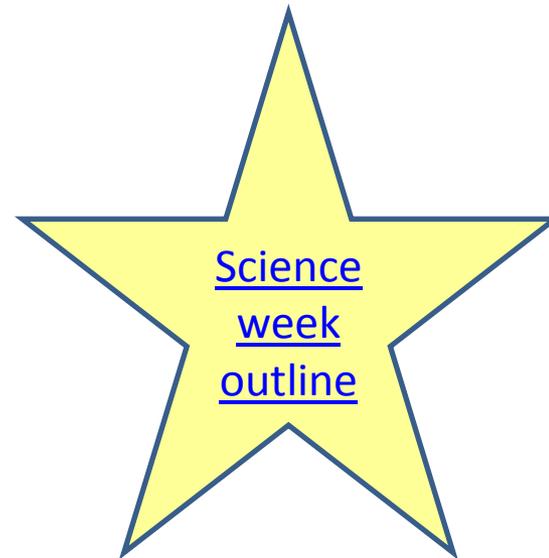
The impact for our school was

The science evening created a real buzz around the school; many parents fed back that they had no idea that science could be “so much fun”.

It has also now given us a base of parental expertise which we can tap into.

Our science week was carefully planned with a selection of different activities.

We've added the links to some of our planning in the stars below.



Science Subject Leaders Comments

We were successful in both our aims, receiving very positive feedback from families and believe that other schools would be able to use some of our ideas to raise the profile of science like we did.

Here are some resources and contacts we found useful:-

Crest Science Club packs (for activities for science week and the evening)

Tony Charles science magic shows – especially useful as he was willing to stay for the evening too, after the children's daytime shows.



What we will do next

We plan to maintain a science week in alternate years with a science evening at the heart of it.

We are also trying to have regular “meet the scientist” assemblies when parent scientists come in to speak about their work for 10 minutes.